

## The Orthodox Samoyed Rear!

*Jeanne Nonhof  
Waldo, Wisconsin*

**R**ECENTLY I finished a bitch who has the best single-tracking rear I have ever had on a Samoyed bitch. I am not alone in my opinion that this bitch has a superior moving rear end, for I have checked with various area breeders after some of the things I had happen.

The judges who liked this bitch liked her very well for she finished with four majors and BOS's over specials.

One judge gave this bitch a BOW at a large indoor show and raved about her qualities. The next two times he saw her (outdoors in the grass) he said, "She's a lovely bitch, but crosses over in the rear." Now, he could have said a lot of things about her, but that wasn't one of them. This is when I had other area breeders - at least three of them - look at her (again in the grass) and their opinion was, and I quote, "She's right on the money." Did the judge lose the bottom of her legs in the grass or what?

Okay ... chalk that up to the fortunes of war.

Well, after this Sammy girl finished, she was already entered in two shows, so we transferred her to BOB. The money was spent, the shows were close, so why not go? Besides, I just cannot stay home from a dog show.

Well, on Saturday, she threw it away with both paws. She just didn't feel like performing, the little crabby apple.

The second day she was beaten by the Winners Bitch. The judge happened to be one with whose placements I have generally agreed, so I walked back into the ring and asked him what he thought of my bitch. "Well," he said, "she is a very nicely put together girl, I just happened to prefer the other today." That's the kind of answer that keeps a lot of judges out of trouble. I was a little more persistent and asked specifically, "What did you think of her rear?" "Well," he replied, "it is not your ORTHODOX SAMOYED REAR."

Yikes! Now what do I think?

This reminded me of something that happened a few years ago in Canada. I was standing in the "breeders' corner," which is the end of the diagonal opposite the judge, watching the Open Dog class at a specialty. The rear ends I was seeing were typically three steps wide and three steps single-track and then more wide rolling steps. It looked kind of like a toddler who has filled his pants. I hope I was watching it with a poker face, I usually try to do that.

As I pondered the problem, an experienced breeder/exhibitor said over my shoulder, "We see so many rears like that these days, pretty soon the judges are going to think they are correct." I couldn't do anything but nod in agreement at his observation. I don't mean to infer that these were strictly Canadian dogs - they were basically from American stock.

All right, let's look at the standard. What does it say about rears? I'm talking about rear ends going away. I'll tackle profile movement another time.

Regarding rears, the standard says, "Samoyed should trot, not pace ... with a quick, agile stride that is well timed ... gait should be free, balanced and vigorous ... good driving power in

the hindquarters. Moving at a slow walk or trot, they will not single-track, but as speed increases, the legs gradually angle inward until the PADS ARE FINALLY FALLING ON A LINE DIRECTLY UNDER THE LONGITUDINAL CENTER OF THE BODY. As the pad marks converge, the forelegs and hind legs are carried straight forward in traveling, the stifles not turning in nor out ... a choppy or stilted gait should be penalized."

So, the standard does, indeed, call for a single-track. When, I ask you, was the last time you saw a Samoyed show a single-track "V" on both ends?

One gentleman who gives "movement" seminars says that spraddle-legged movement when a dog starts moving can be forgiven because it is an acquired habit from the dog trying to "avoid the traces." I maintain that if you're going to forgive this kind of movement, you should be able to see harness marks on the dog's coat. Otherwise, it is only a convenient excuse for a dog that is not properly balanced.

While the front ends on our favorite breed remain a universal problem, hey! we've gotta watch the other end, too.

Think about it when you plan your next breeding. •

## Biscuit and Pigment

*Don and Dot Hodges  
Poynette, Wisconsin*

**T**HERE is a firmly held belief, part of the "common knowledge" of our breed, that biscuit coat color must be maintained in order to keep good pigment. Apparently good pigment and biscuit coat color are supposed to be genetically linked such that elimination of the latter will necessarily lead to loss of the former. This belief is explicitly stated in a number of articles written by early fanciers in England. IF it

were ever so, and it may have been, it does not seem to us that it is valid today.

Lest we be drawn and quartered at the next specialty, we hasten to add that we have nothing against Sammies of color - in fact, some of our best dogs have been biscuit and cream! Nevertheless, honesty impels us to take note of the fact that we see many stark white dogs with excellent pigment (the real thing!). We also know a great many dogs with biscuit that, alas, could use more black. Good pigment seems to be more directly related to the

attention it receives from breeders than to the presence or absence of color in the coat.

There are some interesting things about biscuit coats that we HAVE noticed. For example, the biscuit areas, other than around the ears, seem to have a coarser texture. It also seems to be slower to dry after the bath for some reason. Biscuit spots sometimes get bleached and tinted in show dogs because, as most of us are aware, many judges look askance at colored dogs even in these enlightened times. We can vouch that attitudes are better than they once were, however. Fifteen years ago we knew many judges who wouldn't put up a dog with much biscuit, but many of those same judges

now treat them fairly well unless they are really dark. Have you ever seen a really dark biscuit Sammy? If you are a recent fancier, you may not have had the opportunity. They are a minority even now because many breeders also discriminate against them. If you know a dog with a little light color, wait. Light biscuit in the younger dog often becomes dark biscuit in the old dog. Color doesn't even begin to show in many cases until the dogs reach several years of age.

We don't suggest the modification of the color description in our standard, but perhaps it is time to acknowledge that the "crutch" justifying its presence has broken! Just accept it on its own merit. Biscuit can be beautiful! •

## Did He Eat His Dinner?

*Dave Richardson  
Long Beach, California*

A very typical sort of vignette was related to me the other day. It involved an elderly male Sammy who developed one of those instantaneous hot spots at the top inside of the stifle. The dog was being "babysat" by a young lady who very much cares about the dog, but who did not notice the developing problem over a period of four or five days. It was not that she was being haphazard in her care, she just was not tuned to the subtle signs of a Sammy in pain. Upon her return from out of town, the problem was immediately spotted by the dog's owner, a longtime breeder with experience in picking up on Sammy health problems. She quickly dove into clearing out the muck and mats which were causing the poor old boy a considerable amount of trouble in getting about. The Sammy's reaction to the curing process (which must have been pretty painful itself) was to lay very still on the grooming table and to let his owner do all that was necessary to bring him some relief.

Let me relate, now, a second story that fits into the concept that I am try-

ing to build. A number of years ago, the sire of the elderly Sam, above, developed a severe liver infection. The way that the dog's problem was found was a topic of some amused conversation among those who heard the tale of this terribly sick Samoyed. At the time of the onset of the liver problem, the Sammy was the "inside" dog of the group being kept at this breeder's home and was fed in the kitchen after the rest of the dogs in the kennels. He got up from where he was laying, a suspicious sign for a Sam during feeding time, wandered over to where his food bowl had been placed on the floor, and nonchalantly ate his entire dinner. He then walked over to the front door, looked his owner in the eye, shrugged, and fell over on his side.

During the next few ensuing minutes of panic, it was found that the dog had a temperature that was literally off the scale of the human thermometer used to check him for a fever. Yet the dog totally ate his dinner no more than fifteen minutes before his collapse. It was said after that, that the only time the dog would forego a meal would be the day after he died — maybe two days.

The Samoyed is a difficult breed

for man to deal with in the normal course of events. The dogs are willful, stubborn, and too intelligent for their or their owner's own good. Our Nordic Nerds, a phrase coined by Dick Koehler about a Sam in one of his obedience classes, also have a characteristic of enduring considerable pain or sickness to the point of death and never giving any outward indication of a problem. This can be a real problem if you are not trained to a high level of concentrated observation of your chosen furry white friends during their day-to-day existence. You must pay very close attention to know when your Sam needs help. I have lived with Spaniels and have observed other breeds who are fairly blatant about telling you they are not well. Not so with the Sams. I do not know if the Arctic breeds in general are like this, but the Sammies are definitely not prone to complaining.

SOME telltales of a Sam's physical condition do exist. A few are: he's not breathing; he doesn't put muddy footprints on your face when you come home; he doesn't eat the piano or leave a sign of displeasure in the middle of your bed when you leave him home while you go to the pet store for rawhide chewies; he lays around humming quietly to himself and looking introspective; he doesn't stay up all night howling because the bitch next door is on day two of her season. You get the general idea. The primary signs are behavioral, mostly leaning in the direction of him being good for a change. I would almost be willing to make a prediction that a well-behaved Samoyed is a sick dog.

In all seriousness, determining that you have an injured or unwell Samoyed early on can be a very difficult task. The silly dogs do not give much indication of any problems and you find yourself going over him until you do find a problem or decide that he is walking around with his head down and left because he is a mental aberrant or because he knows that you just ate a sandwich and he is looking for leftovers. In my twenty-odd years of living with Sams, I have seen more sick dogs than I ever wished and hardly a one was an easy early diagnosis.

A little aside here. When you do spot a problem and go ripping off to

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your local vet, you stand a good chance of having a professional diagnosis of either the AVMA Disease of the Month or, "I dunno - let's watch him for awhile!" One of my favorite diagnostic statements, until I concluded that it was legitimate, was something to the effect of, "Well, he is all white, I wonder if it's a kidney problem?"

This all leads to a blanket statement about some family traits of the Samoyed or, possibly, all Sams. They are stoic as hell! The second to the last paragraph in "The Complete Dog Book's" description should be altered to, "the big white dog with the 'smiling' face and the apparent inability to show pain."

It would seem, then, that the one single precaution that is most effective in determining your dog's state of well-being is observation. When the white fool acts a little different or strange, check it out. These beautiful,

loving animals have one of the highest levels of trust in you that you will ever attain. Be faithful to that trust and follow your intuitions - if you have a mild suspicion of something being not quite right, don't just shrug and think you are imagining things, follow it up.

One of these days I am going to rewrite that entire description of the breed in "The Complete Dog Book." It is really very poetic and very charming, but I fear for the level of veracity. Most nearly akin to the primitive dog, indeed! It is the primitive dog, and that includes all its wolf forebears. Ask Bob Ward about the Arctic suns and snows bleaching the coat. Do you have any idea how long that sort of environmental effect takes? The harsh California sun turns my dogs a little red - it even turns me red for a little while - but I do not think that they or I are becoming Irish Setters. Ah, well, that is the continuation of a previous column. •

## Dog Kisses

Phoebe Faulmann

**W**HEN the man woke up, he said, "What is Wild Dog doing here?" And the woman said, "His name is not Wild Dog anymore but the First Friend, because he will be our friend for always and always and always ..." - Rudyard Kipling, "Just So Stories," 1902.

Much research is now underway in the field of medical and psychological health where "pets" and people are concerned. Research has shown that pets act as social catalysts to other human interactions and people who like pets also really like people. Many reports show that interacting with pets can help decrease high blood pressure and can also help to reduce the amount of time a person thinks about an illness. Laughter has been thought to be a very positive healing force and what can induce laughter more than a gaggle of young pups or the fun times one shares with

the friends your dogs have brought you together with. Great people you would have never known except through the contacts that came from your dogs.

Some months ago, the Gazette ran a picture of a dog lying at his master's side in a setting which was obviously a hospital. How comforting it must have been to both to be reunited. Even non-doggy people are beginning to appreciate just how important "our" loved ones can be and are to us.

There is currently a good bit of publicity concerning animal-facilitated therapy. I'm so pleased there are more and more Samoyed people becoming involved. There are numerous types of programs and animals available to assist in various and multiple situations, but think how our Sams are so perfect for the job. Never ending willingness to please coupled with their everlasting smiles. They open doors as quickly with adults as well as children.

By this time it is definitely no

secret that I have been ill the past couple of years. Goodness knows the rumors have been rampant (almost as bad as if it were a top winner with a genetic problem), but I have managed to outlive the rumors - when some of the folks that were diagnosed at the same time as I was have succumbed. But I am lucky. I have always been lucky. I like to think I have this guardian angel who travels with me and keeps me safe going from show to show; my luck at shows is uncanny, too, sometimes, though she gets tired and stays home (like my husband). Those days are safe, but not as "lucky."

I try to be open concerning my illness - "Here today and gone tomorrow," I say. It shocks some of my friends, but it is my strange way of coping.

**M**ANY of my friends and family wonder why I don't give up breeding and showing and "get some rest and enjoy life!" I say that my dogs and all the dog kisses they give me are the reasons I'm still here and the others aren't!

When I first came home from the hospital two years ago with what the doctors told me was a "grey" prognosis, I got mad one day looking at a beautiful litter of two-week-old pups and said, "I won't let this beat me, damn it! I'll be around to see these babes grow up and finish; and I will finish 30 before I go." In November, one of those pups finished and was my 30th champion; so now I'll set new goals.

Champion #30 came in season this week. I wanted to breed her, but there was that shred of doubt - will I be here to whelp the litter? I realized I was letting something control me instead of controlling myself. She is now bred and will, hopefully, have pups that will grow up for me to show.

I also got a new Chihuahua pup for Christmas who has really bonded and needs me, not to mention the rest of my doggy family, and of course, there's my ever supportive husband.

Sometimes we get so wrapped up in our game we can lose touch with the basis for which we all started - the love for animals (especially the Sammies) and our desire for companionship and good times (the dog shows). I've been guilty myself. If we could

measure in dollars our dogs' love and devotion for us, their masters, we could all be wealthy (sort of like "money growing on trees" – the poop-scooper would be full of dollar bills).

In times when it seems like more and more folks are complaining and dissatisfied with dogs, dog clubs and dog people, I remind myself I have a

choice and I'm just glad to still be a part of it all – the good, the bad, and the ugly.

The next time you get to feeling down, feeling lost, or just plain tired, try going out to your dogs and collecting lots and lots of dog kisses. It's heap big medicine! And it's given so freely. No strings attached. I believe in dog KISSES! •

## "Bitch Session"

*Jeanne Nonhof  
Waldo, Wisconsin*

**R**ECENTLY observed practices at dog shows really don't say much for the honesty, integrity or common sense of the exhibitor.

For instance, coloring noses on the show grounds, right at ringside. If you're going to cheat, do it where it cannot be observed by the general public. And never do it where I can see it, 'cause I'll say, "Hey, AKC rep! C'mere, there's something I think you should see." I suspect there are quite a few fanciers who look at it in that same manner. To those who say, "If your dogs had light noses, you'd do it too," I say, "Wrong-oh!" Wouldn't it be better to educate our judges to judge to the standard? Dark noses are merely preferred. A light nose is a very small cosmetic part of the dog.

And then, as we drove along the road from the motel to go out for breakfast, what did we observe but two Sam fans getting a breeding on their dogs right next to the road. How about this scenario: Family on the way to church. Little chirper in the back seat says, "Hey, Mom, what are those dogs doing? Why is that dog jumping on the other? Why is the one crying? Are they stuck together forever?" That's the kind of thing that gives dog shows a bad name. C'mon, there are motel rooms for that kind of thing ... or at least behind some trees. And don't ever get caught doing it on the show grounds where the general public can see. I remember a potential big scan-

dal after one of the SCA specialties which got hushed up, but which did open some eyes as to proper behavior. You know, getting breedings is an ordinary event for a dog breeder, so I guess we have to be on guard against getting too casual about it. We even have to watch our language. To illustrate, we had a new employee at Wilderness Log Homes, where I spend my working hours. Now, everybody there knows I have this "dog habit," but we had a new employee on, and as she walked through the reception area where I had stopped to chat, I said to the receptionist, "You know, it's a good thing Wayne has the job he has, because then he can pick up that bitch in Milwaukee." Nothing odd in that statement to you and I, but this gal hesitated in mid-stride, turned and looked at me with raised eyebrows, and then continued on her way. Ding! Ding! I realized what she was thinking and hotfooted it up the stairs to straighten her out. Really, I don't normally use that kind of language in the office.

And, how about experienced exhibitors, at five minutes before show time, using the ring for a training session ... I mean run into the ring with the dog, run twice around, up and down the center mat a couple of times and then out. I can't believe it isn't a well-known fact that that is against the rules. If that event had been reported to the AKC rep, the exhibitor could have been barred from the show. My feeling is that if I have to abide by the rules, then so do you. It is a very bad reflection on a show-giving club when one of their own members does it.

Does a spectator asking an exhibitor in the ring to move so he can see amount to interfering with an exhibitor's right to exhibit his dog to the best of his ability? The exhibitor has paid a healthy fee to enter and has a right to show his dog. The spectator could get up off his/her chair and move, too, now that I think about it. Yes, we want the ringside to see what is going on, but I think the exhibitor has a priority here. The judge alone has a right to control positioning of exhibits in his ring.

Some exhibitors bring large numbers of entries to a show and expect others to hold their dogs at ringside. This is not a practice which earns you a lot of friends. Similarly, unattended, dirty toddlers running around the show while Mommy and/or Daddy is in the ring is disgusting. My feeling is that dog shows are important, but not more important than children. A Gold Award to the exhibitor who brings a sitter along to the show to alleviate this situation.

Now, this one has been mentioned before by a lot of people, and I hear large amounts of grumbling about it. What? Dogs who are allowed to bark and Bark and BARK at a show. You are giving your dogs and yourself a bad image when you don't care enough about the irritation you are causing your fellow exhibitors to remedy this situation. I have seen people go over and kick the crates of the barking dogs; wanted to do it myself at times.

**O**KAY, now you've heard some of my pet peeves, and it probably hasn't been much fun. Now let's hear yours. Or if you disagree with what I've said, I'd like to hear that, too. No, I don't want to hear how your husband snores, or drinks or whatever. I want to hear your doggy pet peeves.

If you want to go on record, I will use your name. If you want to complain anonymously, I will not publish your name. You can drop me a note at R 1, Box 176, Waldo, Wisconsin 53093 or phone in the evening at (414) 528-8168. I'll compile them and get them in the next possible issue of SQ.

All right, now let's think about the things that make us smile when we see them happen ... about some of the many helping hands we have received along the way. If you want to give

credit where it is due, I will mention names. If you want to make a blanket statement about something good and not mention names, hoping people will

recognize the good things they have done, we can do that, too.

There are many things which make us feel good about the sport of

dogs and many that bother us. Let's air some of them. •

## Centerfold

### Ch. Ka-Tag's Memory In Silver

April 29, 1966 - January 8, 1977

Breeders: Nicholas and Kathryn Tagliaferri Owners: T.J. and Nelda Dendinger

Startinda's Norgali  
Blizzard of the Rockies

Karenova

Ch. Silver Duke of the Rockies

Kimo II

Tonya of Broken Bow

Naida of Encino

Ch. Chu The Magnificent

Ch. Chu-San's Silver Folly

Roxalani of White Frost

Ch. Chu San's Mei Ling O' Yeneseisk

Ch. Barceia's Shondi of Drayalene

Ellbur's Mitzie of Yeneseisk

Silver Dede O' Snow Ridge

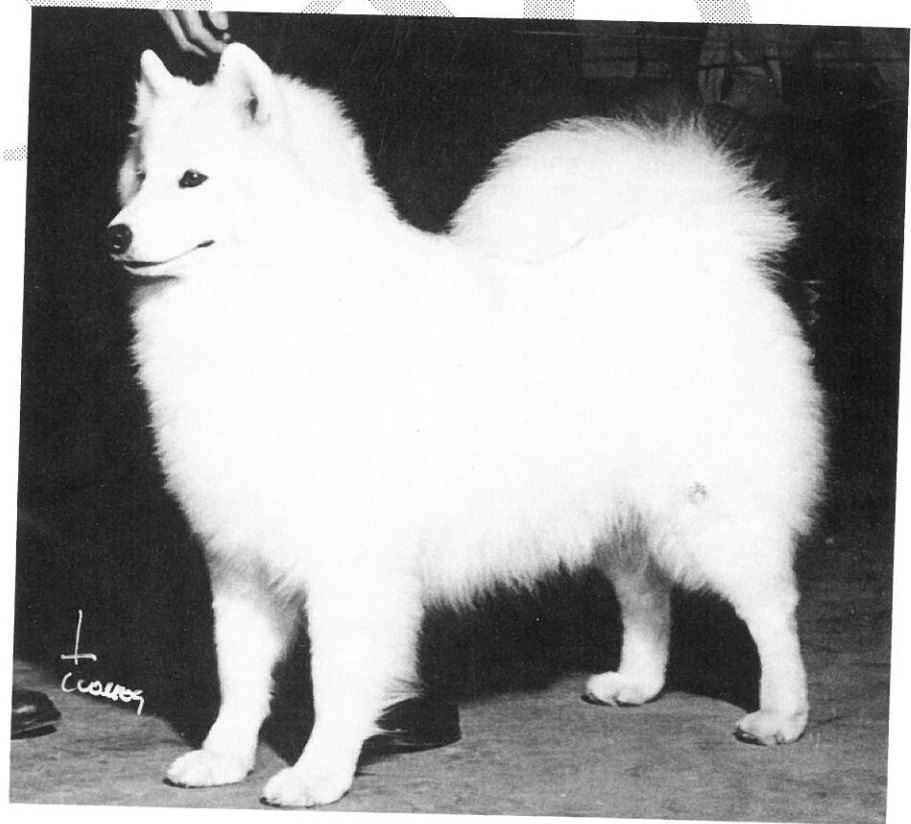
**M**EMORY - faithful companion, acclaimed showstopper, dam of champions. Could anyone ask more?

Memory was endeared to all because of her winning personality. She lived her entire life as a house pet. She greeted visitors at the door, insisting on a paw shake. She slept at the foot of the bed and had complete freedom in the house. When we were away she stood guard, and once repulsed an intruder.

With Memory in tow, our children explored new avenues. They ventured into Junior Showmanship competition, traveled throughout the state making demonstrations for the 4-H Dog Training Project, and appeared on television programs.

Memory stood 21 1/4" tall. She had medium bone, solid black pigment, and carried a glamorous coat. She was often ignored by competitors until she stepped into the ring, gaited flawlessly and turned on the charm. She usually stacked herself perfectly and was a pleasure to handle.

Memory was co-owned by her breeder, Kathryn Tagliaferri, until she completed her championship. We then



became her sole owners.

Product of a Group winning sire and SCA top winning bitch, Memory

also achieved high honors. She was the first Samoyed bitch to win a Group first in the South. In 1967 Memory

earned the Ch. Suzanne of Whiteway Memorial Award for SCA top winning bitch. She competed in nine states and was exhibited a total of 26 times. She had a 40% record for Group placements and Breed wins. Memory was undefeated in her sex from 7 1/2 months until 3 years of age. Then she bowed to her 8-month-old daughter, Silvertip's Dixie Fantasy, who went from a Bred-by-Exhibitor major win to defeat two specials.

Memory was very protective of all puppies. She often took command of a litter other than hers. She abhorred tobacco and never tolerated it near her or her pups. An astute judge of character, Memory occasionally growled at prospective puppy buyers and refused

to stay in the same room. Needless to say, they always left without a puppy.

Memory was fastidiously clean. She remained in perfect health until she was 10 1/2 years, then developed a kidney ailment and declined rapidly. When it became apparent that she was suffering needlessly, we made the final trip to the vet and allowed her to die with dignity. She lies at rest under the live oaks where she once romped with the children.

Dam of 31 puppies, Memory passed along her best attributes to them; especially her delightful temperament. All were sired by Ch. Count Togwotee of Pinehill (SA 497). The following competed in various parts of the U.S.: Ch. Silvertip's Dixie

Debonair (D), Ch. Silvertip Nikki of Summer Sun (D), Ch. Silvertip's Nicholas O'Dixie (D), Ch. Silvertip's Dixie Fantasy (B), Ch. Silvertip's Angel of Dixie (B), Ch. Silvertip's Memory's Echo (B), Ch. Silvertip's Dixie Heritage (B), Am/Can Ch. Silvertip's Dixie Sensation CD (B), Am/Can Ch. Silvertip's Dixie Fascination (B), Silvertip's Yukon Princess (B), Silvertip's Dixie Polaris (D), Silvertip's Taj of Shenandoah (D).

Through the above, Memory's name appears in the pedigree of Best in Show, specialty and Group winners. She made a significant contribution to the breed. Thanks for the Memories. •

*Notes by T.J. and Nelda Dendinger*

## Ten Commandments for Judges

*Don and Dot Hodges  
Poynette, Wisconsin*

**E**VERYONE has pet peeves about judges, and those are not restricted to political influence, we are sure. Given the considerable time and money AKC is spending on education and screening of judges, they are clearly concerned about judging competence also. Perhaps we can create some discussion by suggesting something like Moses' tablets with a set of Ten Commandments for ring behavior of judges. Herewith are our suggestions:

1. Thou shalt not forget the breed standard. This may seem basic, but how often have you encountered judges who clearly discriminate against all Samoyeds with biscuit coats or light nose color, despite our standard's clear statements that biscuit is a legitimate color and liver or Dudley noses are not to be penalized? How often have you encountered judges who penalize Samoyeds within the size standard as "too small" while rewarding those over standard?

2. Thou shalt not dawdle in the execution of one's assignment or, worse yet, forget where one started in

the lineup. Besides upsetting host clubs, superintendents, and AKC for taking too long, signs of indecision leave a judge open to intimidation and possible loss of ring control. We once watched two professional handlers push a judge all over the ring (figuratively speaking); sensing his indecision, they went to work with posturing and aggressive stares as he switched them back and forth between first and second place numerous times. We have also seen many cases of confusion when a judge forgot where he or she was in the procedure. Recently we saw a judge bring two dogs into the ring, gait them around the ring once, and make her placements without ever examining either. When the owner of the loser protested to the steward, the judge brought the two dogs back into the ring and rejudged them even though she had already distributed the ribbons and marked her book!

3. Thou shalt not descend upon the ring with a rainy-day disposition. We are all supposed to be having fun, and if the judge is not, he or she should not be judging. Exhibitors pay good money for the privilege of a few minutes of judging time; that thought alone should make judges smile!

4. Thou shalt not get theatrical or

"cute," hoping to create a surprise outcome. It can, and has, backfired, making some judges look stupid or just plain mean. Not too long ago we witnessed the judging of a large entry during which the judge sorted dogs in each class into good and bad piles, interchanging the locations of these piles from time to time to keep everyone guessing. Of course, if the majority of the spectators incorrectly guess which is the good pile, you know who really ends up with egg on face – not the spectators! This same judge then rearranged his good pile through six or seven placings, gaiting and reworking the dogs numerous times. When he gaited them around the ring the final time, he made his selections of first through fourth from the second through fifth dogs, omitting the dog which had held first position throughout the lengthy final judging process. Not only was it tacky, many spectators and exhibitors were confused about who had really won. The most embarrassing bit of theatrics we witnessed occurred at a large prestigious benched show where, during Group judging, the judge made his placements in REVERSE order, giving out his fourth place first, as the dogs gaited around the ring. Of course, the

spectators did not realize what was happening and erupted in cheers for the dog they thought had won first. The excitement turned into jeers and great embarrassment for the judge when the deception was discovered.

5. Thou shalt not be deceived by flashy handling or scintillating showmanship. All that is nice, but the judge is still supposed to be selecting the best dog overall. Such things are superficial and should be secondary to the consideration. It is too obvious that a judge is susceptible to the superficial when a fourth place dog is suddenly pulled up to first place on the last dash around the ring because the handler succeeds in running over or blocking off dogs in front of his or hers. (There seems to be much confusion about the difference between good movement and flashy movement.)

6. Thou shalt not manhandle the exhibit or exhibitor. There have been many notorious cases of judges roughing up dogs during examination or verbally roughing up exhibitors. We used to refer to one of these as Nasty McSnart – he did both, often while under the influence, and on one occasion actually wiped off his hands, after examining a dog's mouth, on the female exhibitor's hair!

7. Thou shalt not volunteer apologies or excuses for one's judging decisions. It is appropriate for a judge to answer reasonable requests for information about judging decisions made, but if a judge continuously volunteers reasons, one begins to wonder why he or she feels compelled to justify the choices made. How often have you had the pleasure of a nice win taken away when the judge volunteered some observation that made you wonder what show he or she was really judging that day?

8. Thou shalt not fault judge. The mark of a really good judge who has gotten well beyond the novice stage is the ability to recognize positive merit, not just negative demerit. The judge who sorts through all exhibits to eliminate those with faults will, if really sharp, end up with nothing to place, or if not so sharp, will end up with a lot of mediocre dogs who have nothing terribly wrong and nothing really right. To get the best dog overall, one must BALANCE good and bad points.

9. Thou shalt not run a marathon. We have heard exhibitors comment that a judge must really be judging movement because she or he gaited, regaited and regaited and ... the dog many times. Balderdash! The judge who knows good movement does not need to run a marathon. This is a sure sign of a judge who is having difficulty recognizing good movement. The judge who stands in the ring staring at the exhibits hour on end is, unfortunately, also revealing an inability to reach a decision, and leaves the exhibitor with more of a concern that the process just get done than any concern about who wins.

10. Thou shalt not issue obscure,

mumbled instructions or motions that can only be interpreted as the actions of a willow tree in a gale. Sure, it may slow down judging slightly to issue detailed instructions to each exhibitor, but it slows judging even more to have confused exhibitors failing to do what is required. Many exhibitors are new to the game, and deserve courteous-considerate introductions to the judging process.

No doubt there are other commandments you would like to contribute. We hope this list has given everyone an opportunity to think through the process of making our judges even better than they are now.

## Sticking Your Neck Out

*Elizabeth Lockman  
Pine, Colorado*

**S**HOWING or judging dogs should never be a means unto itself. There are obligations with each little success that tend to accumulate and it is whether you accept these obligations or debts that make the sport worthy of your participation. Does this sport have any integrity? Ask yourself, do you have any integrity? Are you willing to stick your neck out for what you believe in, or to stop or impede something that will hurt this sport? Are you willing to put back in what you got out of this sport?

I know many successful breeders, exhibitors and judges who never pay their dog show debts and never intend to and, as a result, I have no respect for them or their abilities. I have sat down with judges on many occasions who only talk about getting more breeds, the people showing dogs, or judging dogs, but rarely about the dogs themselves. I know many breeders and exhibitors who complain bitterly about some particular judge's abilities and, for some reason, they are the first ones who enter under them again. This peculiar trait reminds me of Jean-Paul Sartre's story, "No Exit,"

where people who could not get along together in life are stuck together in one room forever in hell. This is a rather amusing thought if it wasn't indicative of the problem that is chronic in this sport. If you feel the judge is not able to judge your dog fairly, invoke your right to not enter. Spare yourself and your dog precious time you could be spending enjoying life. Perhaps those judges who, for whatever reason, no longer care about dogs and just about people and their own egos, would learn that the individual exhibitor deserves their utmost consideration. If you want judging to improve, you must have input. To have input, you should exercise your rights as an exhibitor.

Another case in point is the breeder who complains that a particular judge only considers the Open class when awarding the winners ribbon. What else can the judge do when that is the only class you show in? Stick your neck out and show what you've bred in the Bred-by class.

Breeders who complain that the Bred-by class is never considered and then enter everything in Open are either lacking confidence in what they have bred or demonstrating their own stupidity by giving an entry to a judge who only considers the Open class

worthy of a winners ribbon. Real breeders pride themselves on championships attained from exclusively showing in the Bred-by class. Further, if you, as an exhibitor, want to attain some reputation among the judges as a serious breeder, this is the class to do it in. Believe me, an excellent specimen in this class compared to all the others you see in Open, or Puppy class, certainly jogs a judge's memory when repeated each time you enter under them. Sticking your neck out has its own rewards.

Another misconception among people is the competition between the

Winners Dog and Winners Bitch in the Best of Breed class for the Best of Winners ribbon. This class can only be judged one way, and that is which of the two sexes is the best? Forget which sex has the major; it is the best of the two who must win this class. Jockeying around outside the ring, asking your fellow exhibitors to take a fall, does yourself a great disservice, shows no respect for your own dog or those people around you. Further, if you are a willing participant to one of these shysters and make your own dog look bad, you don't deserve to be in the ring. Stick your neck out and say,

"No." Those judges who consider anything less than the best of the two, who can be swayed by the loud conversations regarding who needs the major, or who checks their judge's book is another specimen who feels no obligation to the purity of the sport.

We have given AKC authority by making it a legitimate organization. We all know about inequities and it is up to us on a personal level to have this sport reflect our own beliefs, and if these beliefs are compromised, we must, because of past obligations and future participation in the sport, stick our neck out for what we believe in. •

## Improvement in Dog Show Judging

*Don and Dot Hodges  
Poynette, Wisconsin*

A few years ago, the American Kennel Club commissioned a management consulting firm to review their complete operations and provide a report that could be used for long-range planning. This report, called the McKinsey report, was made public earlier this year. It is interesting reading and I recommend it to you if you have not seen it. If you don't know someone who has a copy, they can be purchased for \$10 from the American Kennel Club. The study was begun with a very thorough fact-finding process that included interviews with a large number of people and a survey of a significant number of fanciers of all stripes. A prominent finding, not too surprising to anyone who has been in the sport more than a year or two, was a widespread cynicism about the fairness and competence of the judging process. The American Kennel Club, through the board of directors and the executive staff, are making a strong attempt to strengthen this most basic area. Substantive change is not easy to accomplish when many of those responsible for change are also the ones who will be most directly affected. I have been pleasantly surprised, therefore, at some of the

changes that have already taken place. The problem is being approached on several fronts ranging from the process of approval of judging applicants to efforts to educate prospective judges (which includes most of us). Consider the following changes that have taken place in just the last several years.

One of the first steps taken as a result of the McKinsey report was the appointment of Delegate Advisory Committees to advise the board of directors and executive staff on specific issues. One of these is advisory to the board's Committee on Judges Research and Development. These two committees have already altered the initial approval process for judging applicants making the rules more consistent and PUBLISHING them so everyone knows what is expected. Making operating rules public is a beneficial change in itself. In addition, there are oral interviews in which an applicant's knowledge of dog show rules and ring procedure are examined. There are now written tests to be taken on the breed standard for each breed requested. Questions for these tests were solicited, in part, from the national breed clubs. A report given at this year's annual meeting of the delegates indicated that written tests on gait, structure and terminology are being developed. In addition, ways

are being explored to try to evaluate the substantive ability of judges to apply breed knowledge in the ring. There are risks to the latter endeavor, but, given the attitude of the fancy toward the quality of judging, it must be attempted. Steps are also underway to make all the breed standards consistent with a common vocabulary and more uniform content.

Some of the steps described are educational in nature, but on a broader scale, the other significant activities are more directly aimed at educating judges and developing a generally accepted body of knowledge regarding our different breeds of dogs. One attempt to do this involves the videotapes of each breed produced by AKC in cooperation with the breed clubs. These started out as slide-tape shows but are now being produced as videotapes. Another project is a series of continuing judges' seminars around the country on judging procedures. Kennel clubs and breed clubs are being encouraged to put on seminars on individual breeds aimed at prospective judges for those breeds. Other such projects will undoubtedly be devised.

CONSISTENT, explicit policies and procedures coupled with effective educational programs will help, but there is another area that

must eventually be breached if we are to see real improvement in judging. Most people are aware that the most vulnerable point for any judge is the ability to get assignments. Furthermore, the process of gaining license to judge sufficient numbers of breeds to make a person attractive to show-giving clubs is slow enough that there is great pressure to compromise oneself toward that end. In short, the most obvious and ubiquitous political act is the offering, explicitly or implicitly, of judging assignments in return for

favours in the ring. How this problem can be minimized we cannot say, but if that distortion to the judging process can be eliminated, then the judging will improve dramatically. Of course, there will still be some favoritism simply because of friendships, but the degree will be reduced by several orders of magnitude.

Changes come slowly, but that is better than not at all! Large changes are too frequently disruptive. The sport is moving in the right direction and we have cause for optimism! •

basis. You do your best to send what the buyer wants all packaged in a dog that should finish his championship. Often this is the owner's first show dog and they begin training class; and from the owner's description, the dog is as well trained as he is beautiful. The owner calls weekly to tell you of the dog's beauty, and you believe it (after all, the brother you kept is almost finished). Then one day I got a letter. The name on the return address was familiar, but not one of the people I usually receive letters from. The letter was polite but to the point. The party explained to me that the aforementioned pup had been seen at several shows, was indeed well trained and well groomed but "not show quality." Initially I was infuriated at receiving such a letter. But after rereading the letter, felt that maybe, just maybe, this person was actually trying to be helpful. They were in fact what I considered a "reputable and knowledgeable breeder."

It took me some time and correspondence combined with videos, but it was determined the pup was in fact faulty; and I did replace the pup with one that later finished. That initial letter took guts to write and send, but the motive was sincere.

ONCE or twice I have wanted to contact a breeder and in good faith let them know they might be interested in reevaluating a pup that was being shown far from their area. It's so disheartening to talk with an enthusiastic newcomer who seems to have great potential and then see them show a "pet" quality dog. Try as we will and as smart as we know we are, breeders sometimes make mistakes. Gorgeous puppies can go amuck. It is true that some lines go through developmental stages that although they seem unfit for the show ring, later develop into something of the most beautiful proportions. I don't mean that every time you see a gangly pup shown, you should call the breeder. However, I think most of us can remember a newcomer or two, with dogs from someone we knew of, but the dogs were just not intended for the show ring.

Any of us who have finished dogs on a regular basis have more than just a casual knowledge of what needs to be done to exhibit a Sam effectively. I

## Ulterior Motives?

*Phoebe Faulmann*

**B**REEDERS today are very fortunate. There are now more publications than ever to flaunt our "wares." We can now reach more prospective puppy buyers than before – very lucrative for placing our young hopefuls. We are now also able to place pups for show, thousands of miles from home. Not only can we, but do. It is wonderful to shop by phone and acquire "just the right pup."

I bought my first show pup within a short drive from home. Therefore I had close "contact" with the breeders of the pup. They guided me, helped me learn, and due to their guidance, my aspirations of showing and finishing dogs came true. A girl who lived near me who bought a pup at the same time (an equally nice pup) from a faraway breeder fell by the wayside and quit years ago.

At the start, she was just as enthusiastic as I – so what happened?

In the beginning, neither of us knew how to groom. I was helped by "my breeders," getting to the shows early and getting help. She came early, too, and although invited to set up with us, stayed by herself. My pup usually turned up at ringside with a special glow – hers was clean but lacked that special "finished touch." I had guidance tips on handling, while she knew no more than to walk in the

ring and stand with her exhibit. My breeders helped me steer my pup to a championship – you can guess what happened with the other pup. The young lady understandably became disenchanted and "gave it up."

Some years later, the young girl and I happened to be working for the same company and developed a casual friendship. After some time, she explained to me why she did not feel a need to become friends with my breeders. Her breeder had led her to believe that because her pup was from another kennel and a different bloodline we might have ulterior motives and "trick" her rather than help her. It was unfortunate her breeder felt this way, because that lovely puppy never reached her show potential.

I have seen many newcomers come and go. Sometimes it is obvious they really weren't cut out for the game, but what of those who have potential but lack the backing of a good support system to help guide them over the rough spots. So often the beginners came dressed in Sunday best (heels included) or for a day at the beach with improperly groomed and untrained but otherwise high quality dogs. Dogs from breeders you recognize. You want to help these newcomers, but your instincts tell you not to interfere.

I myself have placed a number of dogs so faraway there is no hope of seeing the owner and dog on a regular

can understand why one could be conservative with who becomes privileged to these little tidbits of information, and often some of us prefer to save this information to share with "our own" puppy buyers. Also, we all know that the competition in the ring is already tough, and nobody wants to cut their own throat. But our commitment to the advancement of the Samoyed and our responsibility to promote the development of "new blood" in the dog fancy should also be considered.

I myself am just a little hesitant to butt in with another breeder's pup. For instance, you offer to help someone groom a pup and his nails are way too long and you have to trim them. Of course, you are bound to cut one too short and the dog will either limp or its owner will think you've tried to bleed your competition to death. But it would be a nice gesture to ask the person over to "set up" with you and then they could watch and ask and hopefully learn from you and your friends.

We have all sold pups in areas where we are unable to help our buyers, just as pups come into our areas from other breeders faraway. It is not a personal insult that the buyer "bought out of state," just maybe your kennel was not known to them. Don't take it personal. If you've really got guts, the next time you sell a pup faraway, call a reputable breeder in that area (we all know each other, even if only from ad campaigns) and just see if they would be willing to lend a helping hand to the newcomer. They could be insulted and tell you you're crazy or actually be appropriately pleased you asked for their help.

By the same token, should you get the chance to help with someone else's puppy, do it with honesty. Don't be afraid of being criticized for having "ulterior motives" in helping others. Getting involved could mean taking a few risks. But those risks could turn into a great friendship and that involvement is actually a part of your dedication to the promotion of the breed. •

puppy pen, watch the pups play, and then say, "That's the one." You don't know how disgusting that can be when I have just spent hours going over the pups from stem to stern and trying to gait them. I'll compare color and shape of eyes, back length, turn of stifle and make an agonizing decision, balancing one thing against another; and then he walks up and says, "That one!" It makes me want to throw myself on the ground and kick and scream!

**B**UT on this litter we didn't agree. We did agree that these two pups were the best pups in the litter – four of them finished eventually – but Wayne (who is basically an exhibitor) liked Sparkle, while I (basically a breeder) preferred Cricket. And, neither of us would budge on this one. Sharon stood back and laughed. Now what are we going to do? We're 300 miles from home, have to leave or miss a day of work, and two stubborn people are butting heads about a simple decision like this.

As we had committed ourselves to placing our choice of litter with Randy and Kathie Lensen before we left home, and as Sharon had promised Karen McFarlane what was going to be the second pick, a decision had to be made. Finally, somebody said, "Why don't you just take them both. You can then let Lensens make their choice (cop-out) and put the remaining baby on a plane to Karen McFarlane in Kansas City." It didn't really make any difference whether she was shipped out of Detroit or Milwaukee. So that is exactly what we did.

The Lensens, at the time, were reasonably new to dog showing, although they had been dog owners all their lives. To this day, they still have a Cockapoo who has more personality in her little toe than some dogs show in their entire lifetime. They had a young Samoyed called "Huggi" (who became the Group winning Ch. Moonlighter's Ima Huggibear) and could not wait to get their hands on another white fuzzy. In fact, I don't think we were even unpacked from our Michigan trip before they were rolling in our driveway. We told them we had brought two pups home and threw the problem in their laps.

Lo and behold, they had the same problem. Randy (primarily exhibitor)

## A Tale of Two Dogs!

*Jeanne Nonhof  
Waldo, Wisconsin*

**T**HIS is really more than a tale of two dogs, it is a tale of two people's ways of choosing dogs. The two dogs involved are Ch. Frostyacres I've Been Samkist ("Cricket") and Ch. Moonlighter's Ima Spark O' Bark ("Sparkle"). Since both are now semiretired, I will tell you their tale.

The litter which produced these two prominent bitches was bred by Sharon Krensreiter of Williamston, Michigan. Sharon has a lovely and well-named bitch officially known as Ch. Samkist's Classy Chassis. "Shasta," as she is called, is a good-moving, big boned, extremely typey bitch. She was bred to our Am/Can Ch. Moonlighter's Ima Bark Star – an old Konkado linebreeding with a touch of English. I believe there were seven in

the litter. It was a repeat of a breeding Sharon had done previously. As she already had her "TJ" (Ch. Samkist's Touch of Class) from the first litter, she didn't need anything from this litter. She said – I think to her eternal regret – that we could have the choice of the litter for stud fee.

Thus far, seems like a normal tale, right? Ah, but you are reckoning without the fact that we had a husband and wife who had to agree on the puppy to bring home. At the time the litter was eight weeks old, we entered some shows in Michigan, drove around the big lake and stayed with the Krensreiters for the weekend of showing and puppy watching.

Now, Wayne and I have vastly different ways of choosing a puppy from a litter. WE generally come up with the same pup, but what takes me hours takes him two minutes. I'm not exaggerating. He will walk up to the

liked Sparkle and Kathie (primarily breeder) preferred Cricket. Finally Kathie put the ball squarely in Randy's court, saying, "Well, Randy, you're going to show her. I have Huggi to show, so if you want that one, okay." She was the only one willing to give in. Thank heaven she did or Randy would not have had the thrill of winning the SCA National Specialty in '85 with a Veteran Bitch – a first in the Samoyed world. Nor would Wayne have had the pleasure of piloting her to BOS at the '83 National in Randy's absence. Sparkle has won at least three specialties, Group 1's, a tournament and given the Lensens some of the thrills of their lives.

What of the "second choice" puppy? Well, this bitch was really not a second choice at all. She finished her championship owner-handled at the Chicago International and became a Group placing bitch although she was never seriously specialed. Much more important than her show career,

Cricket became SQ's Top Producing Brood Bitch in 1982. Cricket had lovely puppies, the best of which seemed to be sired by her kennelmate, Ch. Karalot's Hot Shot of Windsong. Cricket is the foundation bitch of Frostyacres and thus has a good deal of influence upon the breed.

**S**O now you know why "that Sparkle bitch" carries the Moonlighter prefix – she was a stud fee puppy. And this should all go to prove that "second choice" is frequently not a second choice at all – just a different choice with different priorities.

When smart breeders place their puppies, they try to place the puppy that best fits the buyer's needs. Each buyer has different priorities. Think about it! And – weren't we dumb to let either of these lovely bitches slip through our fingers? I hate to think about that! •

## 1988 Move It!

*Elizabeth Lockman  
Pine, Colorado*

**W**HY do handlers and exhibitors run around the ring as fast as they can? Some people feel that this shows the judge that their dog has beautiful side gait. Their dogs may well have beautiful side gait or they may not, but to truly show your dog's side action, it helps if you let the dog do the running in front of you and not behind you.

When a judge looks at a group of dogs from the side, hopefully they are not impressed as to who is running the fastest, but **WHAT DOG** is using their reach and drive most smoothly and whether the front and rear action of the dog is moving collectively as a whole. While all of this is being done, the judge looks at the topline for flexibility and strength and the front and

rear action for reaching and driving. If the dog has it all together and the handler doesn't show it up, we have a real treat in the center of the ring.

Now imagine you are in the ring running as fast as you can, not letting anyone get ahead of you, including your dog. What do you think you look like? What do you think your dog looks like? Those of you who think it looks good to not only run as fast as you can to get away from the pack, but also to run in front of your dogs, ought to have your heads examined. It implies that you are in better shape physically than your dogs, heaven forbid, and that your dog doesn't have the right angles or structure to move around the ring smoothly. Instead of lead dogs on sled teams, we could have lead people and just hook you up.

Try this instead, take an adult dog and give the dog a loose lead. With the dog on your left side, take a deep

breath and say to yourself, "This dog is going to move itself and I will trust it completely to know how to run." Now start to walk and as the dog moves faster and starts to trot, you increase your own speed, all the time keeping the dog in front of you. If your dog is confused and a little lonely, you need to encourage him or her with appropriate words like "good girl" or "good boy." Keep this up always with the dog in front of you, and if all is working well, the lead will be slightly taut on an angle. Put slight pressure on the lead and let the dog just gradually pull you. Eventually the dog will learn to forge, not lunging ahead, but forging ahead, taking you for a little ride. It's a wonderful feeling and totally changes your mind about racing. By doing this, the judge and anyone from the side can really see your dog's proper side gait. That slight pressure you put on the lead and the pulling motion of the dog almost puts them in a frame-by-frame slow motion video. You can actually see the flexibility of the topline, the angles of the shoulders and how far forward the dog is reaching with his front foot. Also, you can not only see the rear leg extend but drive using the whole foot to push off.

If you have a dog with poor side action, don't do this, as it actually accentuates what I call pogo stick action, where the dog has to bounce off its shoulder to move any distance, or it can show how really uncollectively your dog can move. But if your dog has the right angles and structure, show it off to the judge and spectators. In other words, "If you got it, flaunt it."

By the way, ring size does not matter, just allow yourself some space from the person in front of you and the key is to train your dog. Let them know you trust them to make the right decisions regarding gait and the dog's confidence will soar. Have you noticed how the really great dogs love to get out in front of the lead and show the world how they can move? Well, I think it's time for some of our handlers and exhibitors to do the same for their dogs. Stop making spectacles of yourselves, show us your dogs! •